**Historic, archived document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

Fr 8F 94
Cop 5

WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF DISTRIBUTION
Washington 25, D. C.

LIBRARY
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
APR 10 1945
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

October 13, 1944

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE BRANCH
ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER NO. 15

FRESH PRODUCTS STANDARDIZATION AND INSPECTION DIVISION

INSPECTOR'S LICENSE CARDS

We now have a supply of Inspector's License Cards with the name of War Food Administrator Marvin Jones stamped on them. Will supervisors please return the old Food Distribution Administration cards and advise us how many of the new suppply they will need?

TOLERANCE FOR FLUORINE SPRAY RESIDUE ON APPLES AND PEARS

The following tolerance was announced for fluorine spray residue on apples and pears on September 29, 1944 by the Food and Drug Administration of the Federal Security Agency:

"Acting under authority of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, Federal Security Administrator Paul V. McNutt has promulgated an order setting a toleranc of 7 milligrams per kilogram of fluorine in spray residue on apples and pears. T tolerance is expressed in the metric system since most of the scientific data on the toxicity of poisonous substance is reported in this way. In terms of the avoirdupois system of weights the tolerance is approximately .05 grain of fluorin per pound of apples or pears. This represents an increase over the informal tolerance for fluorine announced in 1938. Since that time, additional data on th effect of small amounts of fluorine have become available. The Administrator stated that the higher tolerance is justified on the basis of our present knowledge but that scientific work on the subject will be continued and if new facts are discovered which warrant any change in the tolerance this will be promp ly done."

TEMPORARY OR SEASONAL HEADQUARTERS OF SHIPPING POINT INSPECTION

For Long Island, N. Y. potato reports wire Rochester office.

For Massachusetts potato reports wire Harry K. Jowers, 47 Gothic St., Northampton, Mass.

For Massachusetts apple reports wire Walter Piper, State House, Boston, Mass. or our Boston office.

For Virginia sweet potato reports wire Federal-State Inspection Service, Onley, Va.

For Virginia apple and peach reports wire Federal-State Inspection Service, 417 N. Camerson St., Winchester, Va.

For West Virginia apple and peach reports wire Federal-State Inspection Service, Berkeley Hotel Bldg., Martinsburg, W.Va

E. E. Conklin, Chief.

## MARKET NEWS DIVISION

### BLOCKING OUT FRANK ON REPORTS

In the Branch Letter of August 18 under the heading of "Mailing Instructions" it was pointed out that any reports distributed by messenger, picked up by the trade, used for filing or later mailing in envelopes should have the entire frank and return blocked out. Under the mailing regulations the Department may be charged for any reports or closures bearing the penalty indicia. For this reason reports which are not actually mailed should not carry this indicia. Please be sure to block out the frank and return on those reports which are mailed to Washington for filing as well as those distributed or filed locally.

* * * * *

### REPORTING PEANUT ARRIVALS AS SHELLED OR UNSHELLED

In reporting peanuts from Virginia and North Carolina on the weekly peanut wire, arrivals should be segregated as "shelled" and "unshelled". This information is followed closely by the trade since shelled and unshelled or cleaned peanuts enter into different trade channels. Practically all peanuts from the Southeast and Southwest are shelled so arrivals from these areas need not be specifically designated as shelled.

* * * *

Conda B. Miller, who previously was with the Market News Division, but for the past year has served in the Fresh Inspection office in New York City, returned to Market News October 1, and is now operating the Benton Harbor office.

* * * * *

### ONION VICTORY FOOD SELECTION

During the period September 21 to October 7, onions were designated as Victory Food Selection. Market News men were requested to call attention to this fact in any way possible and also to furnish a semi-weekly report on retail prices. These retail price reports are no longer needed. Since the problem of removing the onion surplus is still with us, News men are requested to continue to give all possible mention to onions in consumers' radio programs, the weekly Wartime Food Bulletin, and similar means. It will also be appreciated if each permanent market representative will write during the next week or two as to the apparent result obtained on his market from prominent attention given to onions. How have retailers and consumers reacted? Did movement increase and the market improve during the Victory Food Selection period? Any other comments bearing on the situation.

* * * *

TEMPORARY FIELD OFFICES

| Location | In Charge | Commodity | Opening and Probable Closing Dates |
|---|---|---|---|
| Benton Harbor, Mich. * 206 P.O. Bldg. | C. B. Miller | Misc. F & V. | Aug. 1 - Oct. 31 |
| Fresno, Calif. 317 Holland Bldg. | J. A. Hunter | Grapes & Cants. | July 20 - Nov. 12 |
| Idaho Falls, Idaho * P. O. Box 166 | R. G. Risser | Potatoes | Sept. 29 - Apr. 30 |
| Lakeland, Florida * Box 191 | H. F. Willson | Citrus | Oct. 9 - June 20 |
| Martinsburg, W. Va. * 311 West King St. | R. M. Peterson | Apples | Sept. 12 - Dec. 9 |
| Presque Isle, Me. Federal Bldg. | S. W. Russell | Potatoes | Sept. 12 - Apr. 30 |
| Rochester, N. Y. 300 Terminal Bldg. | A. L. Thomas | Misc. F & V. | Aug. 28 - May 31 |
| Waupaca, Wisc.* Court House | B. I. Burrell | Potatoes | Sept. 5 - Mar. 31 |
| Weslaco, Texas * P. O. Bldg. | L. N. Gillespie | Citrus & Vegs. | Oct. 16 - May 31 |
| Belle Glade, Fla. * | D. R. Hall | Misc. Vegs. | Nov. 1 - Dec. 20 |

* On leased wire.

C. D. Schoolcraft, Chief.

FRUIT MARKETING DIVISION

APPLES

Approximately 300,000 bushels of apples, blown from the trees during the recent hurrican, have been purchased under L-84a. Also, to assist growers in the hurrican area, a cider apple utilization program based upon direct cooperation between growers and processors was organized with the aid of our New York office. Reports from the field indicate that this program is resulting in heavy movement of this grade of apples to processors.

GRAPES

Price ceilings on table grapes were revoked, effective October 10, 1944. No price ceiling is anticipated for juice grapes shipped fresh from California; neither is there a price ceiling contemplated for Concord grapes sold for fresh consumption.

CRANBERRIES

Price ceilings on cranberries were established effective October 6, 1944.

D. F. McMillen, Acting Chief.

## VEGETABLE MARKETING DIVISION

### SURVEYS CONCERNING POSSIBILITIES CIVILIAN SALES OF DEHYDRATED VEGETABLES.

Vegetable dehydrators who, to date, have been delivering about 95 per cent of their production to the Government are now making efforts to develop civilian business. One hundred per cent of the production of seven dehydrated commodities, namely, Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, onions, carrots, beets, cabbage, and rutabagas were originally reserved for sale to the Government. Set-aside restrictions for all seven commodities have now been removed.

A survey is now being conducted to determine tin container requirements for packing these commodities for civilian distribution. The Farm Credit Administrat is cooperating with the National Dehydrators Association in a retail store, institutional, and hotel test sales program to determine the possibilities of promotin civilian sales of these dehydrated vegetables. Grand Rapids, Michigan, has been selected as the test city.

### DRIED VEGETABLES FOR STOCK FEED

Considerable interest is now being developed in the commercial possibilities of drying numerous vegetables for stock feed purposes. Several of the equipment companies which have, in the past, manufactured alfalfa dryers have adapted these machines for drying other commodities, including vegetables. These companies are now receiving many orders for machines of both the stationery and portable types for drying sweet potatoes, cannery wastes, citrus peel, and other commodities. During the past year, the staff of the Philadelphia regional laboratory of the Agricultural Research Administration has studied the possibilities of drying vegetable wastes for stock feed use. These studies include analysis of food valu costs, and drying equipment. Mr. R. H. Morris, Chief of the Development Section in that laboratory is in charge of the project.

### EFFORT TO STIMULATE ONION SALES TO CONTINUE

Even though the period of the National Victory F ood Selection for onions has passed, efforts are to be continued to assist in obtaining maximum movement to consumers and into trade channels during the next few weeks. Storage faciliti in some western onion districts are reported as inadequate to take care of the onion crop and serious losses from freezing may occur. A spot check on onion retail prices in 21 cities indicates wide variations but prices in many instances particularly in larger stores, were reported at reasonable levels of 3 to 5 cents a pound. Branch representatives are asked to work with Marketing Reports and Civilian Food Requirements personnel in carrying out an aggressive program to stimulate onion movement.

### VEGETABLE SURPLUSES

Purchases by WFA to relieve surplus situations are being made currently or have been made recently in a number of areas. These include onions in western states, snap beans in Middle Atlantic areas and Mississippi; cabbage in Wisconsir and sweetpotatoes in Eastern Shore area. Local surpluses of beets are reported in the Great Lakes region.

PRICE CEILING ACTIVITIES

An upward adjustment in the spinach ceiling of 45 cents a bushel for the period ending November 10 to compensate for reduced yields in eastern and midwester producing states has been recommended to the Office of Price Administration. An adjustment in the snap bean ceiling is also under consideration because of low yiel in some of the Middle Atlantic States. An adjustment of California snap bean ceili prices is also being given consideration in view of higher production costs of the pole beans grown in that state as compared with the bush varieties grown elsewhere. Consideration is also being given to the matter of adjusting the sweetpotato ceiling regulation so as to advance the effective dates of price ceiling increases 10 days, which would bring them in line with the schedule in original Amendment 40 to MPR-426.

Southern and western growers and shippers of tomatoes and other vegetables met with OPA representatives October 11 - 13 to discuss price ceiling regulations for the coming season.

A directive has been issued by the Office of Economic Stabilation setting forth the policy to be used in price ceiling regulations for 1945. The directive covers such important matters as methods of making ceiling adjustments for substantial reduction in merchantable yields and methods of applying wholesaler and retailer markups. Carrying out of this directive will apparently necessitate considerable changes in present maximum price regulations.

MPR-490, Edible Tree Nuts, has been revised. Ceiling prices reflected to growers for walnuts, almonds, and pecans are the same as last season. In accordanc with a directive of the Office of Economic Stabilization, the price reflected to filbert growers is intended to be $69 a ton more than last season to bring filbert prices into historical relationship with walnuts.

FROZEN VEGETABLE SUBSIDY PROGRAM

The agreement and reporting forms for use by the Industry in connection with claims for subsidy payments are being developed and should be ready for distributic soon. A recent directive from the Office of Economic Stabilization authorized the use of Commodity Credit funds to absorb the difference, by area, between the resale prices of the 1943 purchase and resale program of the Commodity Credit Corporation and the 1944 grower support prices per ton announced by the WFA for snap beans, sweet corn, and green peas for freezing with respect to the quantities of these vegetables used in producing the portion of the 1944 pack of frozen vegetables sold to purchasers other than the Government Agencies.

L. S. Fenn, Acting Chief.

REGULATORY DIVISION

NOTES

Bill Paulson is now located at Fitzsimons General Hospital, Denver 8, Colorado, and says he will be glad to hear from any of his friends.

The Chicago office has recently moved from the third to the second floor of the Produce Traders Building. The mail address, however, remains the same, as well as the telephone number.

T. C. Curry, Chief.